

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF FRUIT BAT, *PTEROPUS*
ALDABRENSIS, FROM ALDABRA ISLAND.

BY

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Among the mammals recently collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott, in the islands north of Madagascar, are two specimens of an interesting species of *Pteropus*, apparently undescribed, from Aldabra Island. This species is peculiar in having the orbits completely encircled by bone, and the color of the back and hairy parts of the extremities light yellow-gray.

The two specimens here described are both males. One was collected September 26, 1892, and the other October 5, 1892.

Pteropus aldabrensis, sp. nov.

Ears long, acute, nearly naked. Fur dense and soft; that of the under surfaces and rump wavy. Fur of the back about 20mm. long, nearly straight, directed backward and appressed. Interfemoral membrane very narrow in the center and concealed by the fur. The fur extends on the upper sides of the tibia nearly to the tarsus, and there are a few hairs on the tarsus and metatarsus and at the base of the claws. On the under side the fur is confined to the proximal half (or less) of the tibia. Upper sides of humerus and proximal half of the forearm clothed with appressed fur; a naked area on the elbow. On the under side of the humerus the fur extends thickly almost to the elbow. The under surface of the præbrachium is clothed nearly to the line of the middle of the forearm. On the endopatagium a band of hair, having the width of the præbrachium, extends from the sides of the body to the elbow, and is continued (growing gradually narrower) to the carpus. The interfemoral membrane is clothed above and below about to a line joining the centers of the tibiae. The posterior margin of the endopatagium is sparsely clothed with hairs.

Muzzle, lower jaw, and throat dusky brown. Head and cheeks pale yellow. Nape, shoulders, sides of neck, and breast bright ferruginous. Abdomen ocher-yellow, shading gradually into the ferruginous color of the breast anteriorly. Back and extremities gray-buff, tinged with ferruginous on the humerus and tibia. Sides of the body below the wings chocolate-brown, which color also extends to the fur on the under side

of the wings below the humerus, though the hairs have more or less yellowish-brown tips

The hairs of the crown of the head are very pale yellow at the base, with darker tips. Those of the ferruginous collar are chocolate-brown at the base, except over the shoulder-glands, where they are ferruginous throughout. All the hairs of the abdomen are grayish-brown at the bases, pale about the pubis, and darker anteriorly.

The majority of the hairs of the back are pale gray at the base, with buff extremities; mingled with them are fewer dark-brown hairs.

SKULL.—Muzzle narrow. Orbits completed behind by the union of the post-orbital process with the zygomatic arch. Upper incisors close together, the outer pair nearly as large as the inner pair. Lower incisors crowded, the outer pair resting against the canines and the inner pair against these. The inner pair have about one-half the diameter of the outer pair, and are so placed that one-half their mass is external to a line joining the anterior surfaces of the outer pair. First upper pre-molar deciduous.

Dimensions of the body.

Measurements.	20984	20985
	Male,* Aldabra Id.	Male, Aldabra Id.
	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>
Head and body	189	184
Ear, from lower margin of orifice to tip.....	24	25
Forearm.....	119	117
Thumb (without claw).....	38	38.5
Hind foot (without claw).....	37.5	40.0
Calcaneum.....	15.5	16.0

* These measurements are from the dry skins. Dr. Abbott gives the following dimensions for the same specimens when fresh:

Measurements.	20984	20985
Length.....	9 in.	9½ in.
Expansive.....	39 in.	40½ in.

Dimensions of the skull.

Measurements.	36053	36054
	20984	20985
	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>
Basio-cranial length.....	52.5	53.0
End of palate to post. base of incisors.....	31.0	32.0
Breadth of palate between inner margins of first molars.....	9.4	10.0
Extremity of nasals to anterior margin of orbit.....	17.3	18.0
Greatest diameter of orbit.....	11.7	11.6
Greatest zygomatic breadth.....	33.5	33.6
Length of penultimate upper molar.....	4.2	4.2
Length of last upper molar.....	2.0	2.0
Length of mandible, from condyles to anterior surface of incisors.....	44.0	45.0